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ENEMIES OF THE INTERNET

ANNUAL REPORT

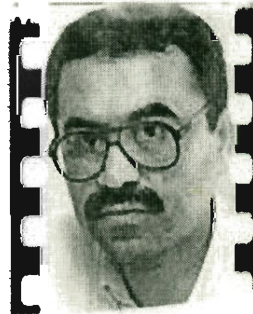
PRACTICAL GUIDE

PRESS RELEASE

IRAN December 3, 2001

Reza Alijani receives the 10th RSF - Fondation de France Prize as the repression goes on in Iran

At the same time as Reporters sans frontières (RSF - Reporters Without Borders) and the Fondation de France awarded its 10th Prize last Wednesday, in the Assemblée Nationale, to Iranian journalist Reza Alijani, the Iranian authorities are continuing their censorship of the media. The newspaper *Mellat* was suspended on 29 November. The reason given by the authorities is to prevent "offensive measures aimed at creating tension and insecurity in the climate of the country's press". Distribution was previously suspended on 23 May 2001, the day after the first issue was published.



On 27 November, the financial daily *Akhbar-é-Eghtessadi* was banned from publishing. The press court, presided by the Judge Saïd Mortazi, noted that, according to the law, the newspaper, published in 1997 and 1998 under the names of *Akhbar* and then *Akhbar-é-Eghtessadi*, had already been banned by the court and could not be published again. The daily was suspended in 2000 during the political repression by the courts which ended in the closure of about twenty dailies and many reformist newspaper

The unjustified arrests of journalists goes on. **Siamak Pourzand**, 70 years old, a diabetic with a weak heart, has been missing since 24 November. He collaborated in recent weeks with radio stations of the Iranian opposition based in the United States. According to Amnesty International, the disappearance of the journalist is connected with the fact that he is the manager of the Majmue-ye Farrhangi-ye Honari-ye Tehran, the cultural center of Tehran where he receives artists, intellectuals and writers. The journalist was particularly famous for his articles against the Islamic regime. Siamak Pourzand is the husband of human rights lawyer Mehrangiz Kar, who is now living in the United States. **Issa Khandan**, head of the social service of two dailies, *Khordad* and *Fath*, was arrested on 10 November by the clergy court. His wife stated that she does not know the reason of his arrest.

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Consult the Press Release : 10th Reporters Sans Frontières - Fondation de France Prize ►

Contact the North-Africa/Middle-East desk ~

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12/4/2001